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Interaction Of Color: 50th Anniversary Edition



Synopsis

Josef Albers's *Interaction of Color* is a masterwork in art education. Conceived as a handbook and teaching aid for artists, instructors, and students, this influential book presents Albers's singular explanation of complex color theory principles. Originally published by Yale University Press in 1963 as a limited silkscreen edition with 150 color plates, *Interaction of Color* first appeared in paperback in 1971, featuring ten color studies chosen by Albers, and has remained in print ever since. With over a quarter of a million copies sold in its various editions since 1963, *Interaction of Color* remains an essential resource on color, as pioneering today as when Albers first created it. Fifty years after *Interaction of Color*'s initial publication, this new edition presents a significantly expanded selection of close to sixty color studies alongside Albers's original text, demonstrating such principles as color relativity, intensity, and temperature; vibrating and vanishing boundaries; and the illusion of transparency and reversed grounds. A celebration of the longevity and unique authority of Albers's contribution, this landmark edition will find new audiences in studios and classrooms around the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Joseph Albers, an artist and greatest educator in the United States, is one of those who first tore down the old hierarchical concept of color." •Yusuke Nakahara, Color Planning Center No. 59 "Interaction of Color with its illuminating visual exercises and mind-bending optical illusions, remains an indispensable blueprint to the art of seeing. . . . An essential piece of visual literacy." •Maria Popova, Brain Pickings "The best introduction to Albers's

work. — Albers's own *Interaction of Color*, which I highly recommend." — *New York Magazine* "Will a paperback version preserve the original value of Albers' text? . . . The answer is an enthusiastic yes, for here is a book which belongs in the studio and classroom that for years has been available only in the best university." — *Arts Review* "The most comprehensive and intelligent . . . book we have yet on this subject. It is an indispensable volume for the artist, architect, or teacher who finds a greater challenge in discovery than in a 'safe' color system." — *Architectural Forum* "One of the most influential artist-teachers of the century, Albers is best known for his squares — a geometric form to which he has been 'paying homage' throughout the years. . . . *Interaction of Color* is a record of an experimental way of studying and teaching color. . . . What he says will be useful in any kind of painting." — *American Artist* "Joseph Albers, an artist and greatest educator in the United States, is one of those who first tore down the old hierarchical concept of color." — Yusuke Nakahara, *Color Planning Center No. 59* — "Interaction of Color with its illuminating visual exercises and mind-bending optical illusions, remains an indispensable blueprint to the art of seeing. . . . An essential piece of visual literacy." — Maria Popova, *Brain Pickings* "The text of *Interaction of Color* provides the careful reader with the content of Josef Albers' famous color course. His teaching is based on learning by direct perception, not by theories or color systems. There are many books on color on the market, but no one combines eyesight with such profound insight as Josef Albers does in *Interaction of Color*." — Hannes Beckmann — "[An] influential classic [that] has inspired artist and designers everywhere." — CoolHunting — "One of the most beautiful books in the world . . . *Interaction of Color* is not solely for artists, though generations of them certainly owe Albers a debt. It is for anyone who wants to get under the hood and understand why and how we see the world the way we do. . . . A visionary work." — Malcolm Jones, *Newsweek* — "One of the most important books on color ever written." — Michael Hession, *Gizmodo*

Josef Albers, one of the most influential artist-educators of the twentieth century, was a member of the Bauhaus group in Germany during the 1920s. In 1933 he came to the United States, where he taught at Black Mountain College for sixteen years. In 1950 he joined the faculty at Yale University as chairman of the department of design. Albers was elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1968 and was professor emeritus of art at Yale until his death in 1976. — Nicholas Fox Weber is executive director of the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation.

It is a very revealing way that we look at colors. It makes you wonder what you have seen in the past. He has found out a lot of things that the average looker at colors does not even realize what he is seeing. Some of the exercises require you to do them several times to grasp what he is trying to get across to you as a seer of colors. You see differently after doing what he has you do. The book is not just a read it quickly and you have what he has to say. It takes time to get through the material, but well worth the effort.

The book arrived in excellent condition and is a must have for any painter or artist in general. I bought it for my drawing in color class and it really helped expand my sense of color relations and effects. However, this book doesn't come with all the color plates, which I'm bummed about. You can make your own if you want using Color Aid or the Apple app.

I've always appreciated the color theory book by Johannes Itten. "Interaction of Color" is exciting in a similar way. Both books examine aspects and interaction of color through discussion, commentary as well as visual examples. Any artist, designer or person working with color will find this book to be of use. A greater understanding of the relationships between colors allows a person to integrate it into their work. The quality of printing is critical in this type of book as colors created by ink and the ensuing relationships must be consistent for the experiments to work. This book achieves this.

Albers was a pioneer in the systematic exploration of how our perception of colors is influenced by surrounding colors. The original edition of his classic work included numerous prints to illustrate the ways in which colors interact. The previous paperback edition included only a few of these prints; this edition includes more of these prints and so gives the reader more insight into a fascinating subject. The work is of interest not only to painters and printmakers but also to photographers and to anyone who is interested in how we perceive the world around us.

I was hoping for more pictures of the colors as they were described. But overall a well thought out book.

As I expected. It is a nice printing and a good size. Not much to be said about it as I knew what I was getting. But in typical fashion the price was right and it came quickly. If you are interested in reading a staple of color theory look no further.

This book changed how I see, and consequently changed how I experience my life! For it to work, you have to sit down and methodically do the exercises with colored paper or adobe illustrator. If you don't, it's a pleasant but slightly boring read. However if you treat it like a class and do the homework, it may change your life too.

It is hard to picture the color interactions he describes. If I could afford the \$200+ full addition, maybe I would like it better

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